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# Random Bits

## Licking County Computer Society



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### THE LCCS/LCAP TEACHING PROGRAM

If you would like to volunteer as a teacher or aide in the teaching program, please contact

George Hreha 740-924-1925

[ghreha@columbus.rr.com](mailto:ghreha@columbus.rr.com)

### The Next Recycle Event May 2 and 3, 2008

### NEXT GENERAL MEETING PROGRAMS

For future monthly General Meeting programs, please go to:

[www.lccsohio.org/meeting.htm](http://www.lccsohio.org/meeting.htm)

### A MESSAGE FROM THE LCCS PRESIDENT Our Officers For 2008

President: Jim Amore

Vice-President: Kemp O'Dell

Secretary: J. C. Deck

Treasurer: John Kennedy

Trustees:

Bob Porter

Mary Frances Rauch

George Hreha

I want to thank everyone for making the LCCS a great club. After talking to a lot of other clubs around the world, we have a lot going for us. We have steadily increased our membership but I'd like to see the membership double by the end of the year. We have a new Public Relations person and that should help get the word out.

Our recycling event will be May 2-3 but we will not have litter prevention helping so we will need to have some sort of potluck for food. After the picnic last year, I'm looking forward to having some great food from our great cooks. I could use some help if someone would want to organize the potluck.

We are no longer able to have computers dropped off at AlphaLink due to needed space, but contacts with ReMax Realty at their new office at Cherry Valley Road and State Rt. 16 look promising.

### 2008 General Meetings of LCCS

### 2008 APCUG CONFERENCE

Presented by Gina Buckey and Jim Amore

Written by Mary Kishler



Gina Buckey and Jim Amore attended the 2008 Association of Personal Computer User Groups held in Las Vegas, Nevada, from January 3 through 6, 2008. Gina Buckey reported on their trip using a Powerpoint presentation with voice during the January 15<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

"Crazy Talk," a program acquired by Gina during the conference, was used to deliver the presentation. This program allows the person to record their talk,

then an animated photograph of the person or an animal is able to "speak" the words that have been recorded. This is done by programming the movements of the mouth against the speed of speech. Gina said an updated version is on its way.

The conference was held at the Riviera. The “Vista Lounge” was a hot spot for all with its banks of computers used when attendees were not busy with scheduled activities. Breakfast started the day and then all chose either a technical or education session. Lunch followed with a speaker, then on to two more sessions, a social hour, vendor question and answer segment, and a vendor fair.

Gina said the “Tech Soup” by Jack Ferron session was particularly helpful. Jack is the president of APCUG and is knowledgeable regarding grant writing. Also, he had some ideas on how to maintain and increase membership. Another session Gina attended was “Stump the Power Point.” Lots of new ideas and information were gained, and no one stumped the presenter.

Our newsletter received recognition for entering this year’s contest. AND! Our own Ron Sherwood received third prize for his photograph “Historic Reflections.” ALSO! Ron’s photo was voted People’s Choice.

Jim Amore next shared a program called “Zoom Text Lite”. This program is especially helpful to those with vision impairment. Though some of the features are available free by Microsoft, this program goes the extra mile with its use of verbal feedback and print sizing. John Kennedy commented he knew a teacher who was able to continue teaching several extra years because of this program.

Lastly, Jim and Gina shared three ways local APCUGs can reach out toward and into their communities: first is by doing presentations at local libraries, second is announcing meeting times in the local media, and third is by doing presentations at local service clubs.

## BASIC DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND PHOTO EDITING

Presented by Dave Clement Written by Ron Sherwood

At the February 19th General Meeting, LCCS member David Clement demonstrated options for moving digital images from a camera to a hard drive and other storage devices. The first transfer option he showed was transferring directly from the camera to a PC hard drive. This method requires a USB cable from the camera to the PC. Usually, this cable comes with the camera since the connection at the camera end is sometimes nonstandard.



The computer may recognize the camera as a USB storage device and assign a drive letter when camera and computer are connected or it may be necessary to install drivers and camera-specific software before hooking up the two. The specific setup depends upon the version of the operating system and the camera. David’s computer recognized his camera when connected. He then used Windows Explorer to drag and drop files from his camera to his hard drive. Once on the hard drive, the usual file commands such as move, copy, and rename may be used on the images. The files may be viewed as thumbnails or in the filmstrip view of Windows Explorer.

A memory card reader provides another method for transferring images from a camera to the computer. Common memory cards for cameras include compact flash, secure digital, and memory sticks. Multi-format card readers handle most of the common card types. Card readers usually transfer images faster than a camera-computer connection and there is no risk of the camera battery going down mid-transfer and corrupting images. Using a reader does require removing the memory device from the camera and inserting it into the card reader. This poses little risk as long as the user is careful and does not use excessive force when inserting the card into the reader or back into the camera. Then, of course, there is the extra piece of equipment, the card reader.

The default filename of images directly from the camera is usually something rather meaningless such as DSC020801.jpg. Once the images are copied to the computer, a more descriptive name may be given to the images, Vacation2008-01 for example. Images may also be saved in different folders to help with organization.

David demonstrated burning images to a CD for long-term storage and safety. Images may be burned to multiple CDs or DVDs and stored at multiple sites depending upon the level of redundancy desired. David also copied images to a thumb drive, a convenient way to move large numbers of images.

Members had many questions for David about moving, copying, storing, and cataloging images. He answered what he could in the limited time available and encouraged members to attend the Digital Imaging SIG to learn more. Digital Imaging meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the computer classroom of Zenger Hall.

## SIG REPORTS

### Tuesday Repair SIG

Wyn Davies, SIG Leader

Written by JC Deck and John Kennedy

**January 1, 2008 — Cancelled — Holiday**

**February 5, 2008** — There were 10 members in attendance. The meeting was slower than recent meetings be-

cause of foggy/rainy weather. Two systems were brought in for repair. One needed a BIOS setting change, however the BIOS could not be accessed. The other was a laptop that had a dead battery. The laptop's battery charge terminals were tested to make sure the computer was capable of charging a battery. The LCCS members utilized the slower meeting to tidy up the A-frame.

### **Saturday Repair SIG**

**Wyn Davies, SIG Leader**

**Written by JC Deck and John Kennedy**

**January 19, 2008** — This SIG was quite busy as we didn't have one on the first Tuesday as it was a holiday. We had a wide range of projects that were brought in to us. A few were simple jobs: clean up one computer by running the standard Spyware software and antivirus; one laptop with lots of junk making it run slow was also “cleaned and disinfected”; wipe a hard drive for someone; speed up the download for someone with dial-up and needed some updates that came faster using the A-Frame's high speed connection. Then we had a couple of “fix it up” projects: a computer that needed a printer driver that we had a hard time finding and then a hard time downloading it — but finally did; a bad CD-drive needed replacing and then needed Win98 reinstalled ( We didn't have the CD, but having fixed the CD drive for them, they were going to be able to do it themselves at home); another laptop had a bad hard drive and owners had to decide if they were going to get it replaced. The most challenging project was working on a Vista computer. We don't expect to get too many of them just yet, but one member brought his in because it was running very slowly and he couldn't get AVG to work correctly. Nobody is much of a Vista expert, but one SIG member was willing to take on the challenge. With the help of the owner, more of the “navigator,” the SIG person did a little checking around and decided that something was running in the background to slow things down. We tackled the AVG problem that updates couldn't take place, nor could it be removed. A check verified the problem with downloading. We tried a trick of trying to reinstall AVG so that it would have to uninstall itself. This did finally work after a couple of tries and once we got AVG removed, we noticed that Vista started running much faster. We decided that the problem was the update program for AVG tried to run and couldn't. After the Vista was running like the owner remembered, we downloaded a new copy of AVG and installed it. The computer was back to working like it did a few weeks before.

**February 5, 2008** — The group met with fewer systems to work on probably due to the weather. We had a couple of “usual types” where we cleaned up a really slow working computer, and installed a missing driver. Our “main” problem computer came in as a laptop which was not running due to a bad hard drive. Laptop hard drives

being somewhat hard to come by, we were excited when another member brought in an identical laptop that was being donated to refurbish/recycle. It did have a hard drive that worked, so we took that hard drive out and installed it on the laptop that wasn't working. That was the easy part. With a hard drive pretty much cleaned off, there was a lot of software to add (the usual AV, firewall, Spyware, and OpenOffice) and the huge amount of updates (maybe 80 some) to download and install. Since the member who brought the laptop in runs on dial-up, we wanted to make sure we got everything we could download using the high speed at the A-Frame. The downloads were so many and took so long, we finally shut the laptop off and continued the project the next day during Linux. Even then, the rest of the downloads and installations took another few hours. But, by the time the member left, he had a very good running laptop.

### **Digital Imaging SIG**

**David Clement SIG Leader**

**Written by Ron Sherwood**

**January 8, 2008** — After reviewing photos submitted for the January theme “holiday lights,” SIG members addressed two challenges presented by Mary Frances Rauch. First, she presented two photos she received as email attachments. Windows Explorer “filmstrip” view, displayed one full view of the image and two “half” images, a partial image at the top and gray at the bottom. Opening the full preview resulted in the half image being displayed. After trying several image viewers with the same results, members decided that the image file had a preview thumbnail embedded within it and that was the full image visible in the filmstrip view and that the full image file was corrupt.

Her second challenge involved moving the head/face from one image to another. She had two photos of a couple and liked the facial expression of one person in the first photo and the other person in photo two. SIG leader Dave Clement demonstrated one of several ways to achieve the result Mary Frances wanted. Using Paint Shop Pro (the procedure would be similar in other editing applications), Dave selected the head to be replaced and erased it leaving a clear area in the image. He then placed that image over the photo with the desired face, aligning them as closely as possible. Then, he used the clone tool for minor touch up to finish the edit.

To close out the evening, Dave used a milk jug to create a “light tent” which can be used to diffuse and soften light, especially useful when photographing small, highly reflective objects.

**February 12, 2008** — Cancelled — Snow

**Networking SIG**  
**Kemp O'Dell, SIG Leader**  
**Written by Kemp O'Dell**

**January 14, 2008** — We met at the Licking County Historical Society in downtown Newark for the meeting, hoping to set up a wireless access point to link the office in the Buckingham House with the Sherwood Davidson House.

We worked with a Linksys Access Point and a Viewsonic Access Point. Both devices can handle what we wanted



but they just speak a different variation of the same language. We were able to get the laptops connected to both of

the access points when we set them to broadcast. We just could not get them to talk to each other.

The whole evening was spent trying to no avail. After doing some research on line I discovered that in order to get two access points communicating because they need to be the same brand.

Ryan Meldhal, President of the LCHS, is working on getting a matching access point and then we will be able to schedule another trip to finalize the network installation.

**February 11, 2008** — There was a discussion about a Windows 2000 Server the LCCS received.

**Linux SIG**

**Jim Amore SIG Leader**  
**Written by John Kennedy**

**January 13, 2008** no report

**February 3, 2008** — We took a look at a few different things at today's meeting. One member needed help in getting a laptop to run live streaming radio broadcasts. This was solved by downloading/installing a different media player that would do the live streaming. After the normal process of using the package manager tool which didn't work out very well, we used the alternate procedure of running Automatix to get the necessary program. It was downloaded and installed, and before we knew it we were listening to live radio. The display screen on a laptop was not running/showing the lines of text or showing an "activity bar" during the initial boot up process. Going through a few modifications to the bootloader and GRUB helped to get that back. We saw how to add a very good

"Start Up Manager" that allowed the users to add a background theme to the GRUB menu screen, choose when and where they wanted to see start-up instruction scrolling up their screen, how to change the appearance from the standard black with white lettering, to using background/text coloring, and finally adding a background theme (this is a very personal user choice).

**February 24, 2008** — We had a second meeting in February. However, only a few Linux members attended. There were a few others at the A-Frame, but they worked on other projects. Last time we added something to one of the members Ubuntu laptops so he could listen to streaming radio and wanted to do it to another one. We thought there was a better way than what we did for the first laptop; but try as we could, we couldn't find the right steps on line. One member said he had it written down at home and would try and find it for us. Our other "big" project was a member's computer that we had installed Ubuntu on, but after taking it home and not getting back to it for a short time, they forgot the username and password. He didn't want to re-install the OS (which might have been faster in the long run, as he probably didn't have anything of value on it — but we were up to the challenge). We did some searching and found there was a way using the LiveCD and running command line actions. It was a two step process of first having to go into the computer via the terminal and running a command line process that told us what the username was. Then we used that knowledge to get into "rescue mode" and re-set the password. After rebooting we used the known username and the new password and the operating system unlocked just fine. We then downloaded all the updates the computer needed. The member carefully wrote down the username/password and stored it in a safe place.

Due to leap year, our leader's work schedule gets a bit messed up and we will have to skip four weeks instead of three. However, that brings us to Easter Sunday and we'll have to see how many SIG members will be available for a meeting on that day.

**THE LCCS/LCAP TEACHING  
PROGRAM**

**Report of the Teaching Committee**  
**Written by Phyllis Hartroft**

Plans are solidified for the spring session of classes. George Hreha called a meeting of teachers and aides on February 25 at which 23 attended. This number, plus several who could not attend, represents a substantial increase in our teaching personnel since before the winter session. George thanks Larry Fugate for articles submitted to the Advocate and neighborhood papers for attracting more volunteers. Some will be teaching in the upcoming

ing spring session and in the fall session. Beginning March 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be four Beginner's classes, one Email and Internet class, and one Beyond the Basics class.

The only change in class content this spring is in Beyond the Basics, in which Open Office.org will be taught rather than Microsoft Works. The program is compatible with Microsoft Office and will not cost the students any extra to install it on their home computers.

The fall session promises to be rather exciting, at least challenging, for the teaching staff because both Vista and XP will be taught. Not only does a new manual need to be prepared, but also the computers have to be upgraded for Vista. More RAM memory and dual booting will be required. Fortunately, we have the expertise and the whole summer to prepare for the changes.

Please watch for later articles for details of schedules and requirements for the fall classes.

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**If you would like to volunteer as a teacher or aide in the teaching program, please contact George Hreha, 740-924-1925, [ghreha@columbus.rr.com](mailto:ghreha@columbus.rr.com).**

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Submitted by the Teaching Program Committee: George Hreha (Chairman), Mary Ossa, Phyllis Hartroft, Dave Bibler, John Dovjak, Dave Clement.

## TIP OR TREAT

### GENERAL MEETINGS A CONFERENCING SERVICE FOR THE LCCS By Everett McKee



A conferencing system is being developed to participate remotely in the LCCS general meetings, using your computer and a Teamspeak audio conferencing program.

The conferencing unit and the Teamspeak server will be operated at the meeting which will provide a connection for the remote participants to join.

Audio from the room will be sent to all participants and will provide a "talk back" ability from any participant to the room.

Anyone wanting to join the conference will need the Teamspeak Client program installed in your computer, speakers, and a microphone if you wish to talk back. A headset with a microphone is preferable for talkback.

The client is available for Microsoft Windows and Linux O.S.'s, and is available free from [www.goteamspeak.com](http://www.goteamspeak.com). Once at the website, click on the "Free Download" button, and select the "Teamspeak 2 Client" for your operating system.

### LCCS JOINS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



We are now members of the National Cristina Foundation (NCF). We are honored to be selected to join this worthwhile organization. This is something all members should be proud of. <http://www.historycristinaus.com/>

The National Cristina Foundation (NCF) supplies computer technology and training to people with disabilities, students at risk, and economically disadvantaged persons. It provides them the opportunities to lead more independent and productive lives.

<http://www.cristina.org/welcome.html>

### WIFI AND THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Newark Public Library has six locations — two in Newark and one each in Hebron, Buckeye Lake, Utica and Johnstown. At the present time WiFi is available at Main, Miller, Johnstown, and coming soon to Hebron.

### THANK YOU LARRY FUGATE

Thank you, Larry Fugate for the articles in the February Issue of Zerger Times, The Newark Advocate and the local radio requests for teachers and aides to expand the computer classes.

### THE REVISED RECYCLE EVENT FLYER

For the Recycle Event Flyer go to:  
<http://www.lccsohio.org/Save%20Flyer%203%20revised.pdf>

Volunteers are needed both days.  
May 2 and 3, 2008

## LCCS MEMBERS SPEAK TEACHING FOR THE MENNONITE COMMUNITY

By George Hreha

This whole Teaching for the Mennonite Community started when my wife mentioned it to our mutual friend Ruth Wile, the co-owner of our favorite campground, Amish Country Campsites located in Winesburg, Ohio. Ruth asked if she could round up some students, would I be willing to come to Winesburg and teach them. I told Ruth I needed to run this past the Teaching Committee to check and see if there was any problem if I were to use our manuals. After getting the OK, I set out with Ruth to setup the date.

The students ranged in age from the 40's to the 80's. The interest level was over the top. The knowledge ranging from beginner to healthy understanding of the PC was a challenge. The students welcomed someone traveling 70 miles to spend time with them. All the computers had been setup in the Wiles family room without the furniture. Tables became the desks, and the lessons were projected on a large piece of white wall sheeting.



The normal seven week course was condensed to 2 days or 16 hours, accomplished due to the interest level of the Mennonite students. The more information they received, the more they wanted to see and hear.

It was an experience I personally will not forget. The future now tentatively holds an advance course around the March time frame with workers from a Mill which uses computers to make precise cuts in wood. These Mennonite men after hearing of the beginners course being taught at the Wiles, asked Ruth to get me back and teach an advanced Internet course at their Mill location.

### COMPUTER REFURBISHING

#### COMPUTERS TO AFRICA

By John Dovjak

An article in the Newark Advocate on January 24, 2008 told about a student at Denison University, who after spending time in Namibia, Africa, formed a branch of the Hope Initiatives Southern Africa- Denison. She requested

3 computers and accessories from the LCCS to support her efforts. The computers were delivered to her on February 14. It is anticipated that the computers will be transported to Africa this summer.

#### MAR PROGRAM

January/February 2008

Four MAR rebuilt computers went to individuals and one to the Salvation Army.

### NEWS FROM APCUG



#### Growing Your User Group in Today's Digital Age!

Join us the weekend of May 16th, 17th and 18th, 2008. The APCUG will host the Leadership Development Conference, 2 days of workshops in West Nyack NY, 30 miles north of New York City. This is the first meeting of Eastern Regional Groups in over 10 years.

All are invited to attend. The \$49 early bird registration fee (\$60 for non APCUG members) includes breakfast and lunch for two days as well as a LDC welcome bag and T-shirt. This rate is good until March 31, 2008

#### Region 3 — OH, PA, WV

APCUG is looking for an advisor for Region 3. Please let Judy Taylour ([jtaylour@apcug.net](mailto:jtaylour@apcug.net)) know if you are interested.

#### HISTORIC REFLECTIONS

Ron Sherwood's photo tied for third place in Best of Show and People's Choice at the 2008 APCUG Convention in Las Vegas.







**Licking County Computer Society, Inc.**  
PO Box 612  
Newark, OH 43058-0612

## LICKING COUNTY COMPUTER SOCIETY 2008

**President:**

Jim Amore 404-3963 [jim@helmicks.com](mailto:jim@helmicks.com)

**Vice-president:**

Kemp O'Dell 348-0049 [kemp@odellhome.com](mailto:kemp@odellhome.com)

**Secretary:**

J. C. Deck unlisted [deck-101@embarqmail.com](mailto:deck-101@embarqmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

John Kennedy unlisted [jakenn@roadrunner.com](mailto:jakenn@roadrunner.com)

**Trustees:**

Bob Porter 366-3284 [bgbporter@alltel.net](mailto:bgbporter@alltel.net)

Mary Frances Rauch 522-4710 [rauchhouse@alink.com](mailto:rauchhouse@alink.com)

George Hreha 740-924-1925 [ghreha@columbus.rr.com](mailto:ghreha@columbus.rr.com)

**Past President:**

Don Furnish 927-9753 [DonIFurnish@copper.net](mailto:DonIFurnish@copper.net)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Gina Buckley 522-0002 [g13b@roadrunner.com](mailto:g13b@roadrunner.com)

**Agent:**

David Bibler 345-3492 [dbibs@hotmail.com](mailto:dbibs@hotmail.com)

**Information Director:**

Vicky Atkins 349-8048 [vmatkins@alink.com](mailto:vmatkins@alink.com)

**Teaching Program Chairman:**

George Hreha 740-924-1925 [ghreha@columbus.rr.com](mailto:ghreha@columbus.rr.com)

**Meeting Programs Director:**

Mary Frances Rauch 522-4710 [rauchhouse@alink.com](mailto:rauchhouse@alink.com)

**Membership Chairman:**

Vicky Atkins 349-8048 [vmatkins@alink.com](mailto:vmatkins@alink.com)

**Public Relations:**

Mary Kishler 323-1114 [kishler1@roadrunner.com](mailto:kishler1@roadrunner.com)

**LCCS/LCAP Seniors Classes:**

Contact: Dave Bibler 345-3492 [lcap@lcap.org](mailto:lcap@lcap.org)

**Recycling Events Chair:**

Jim Amore 404-3963 [jim@helmicks.com](mailto:jim@helmicks.com)

**Refurbish and Recycle Chairman:**

John Dovjak 522-6828 [delores@communicate.net](mailto:delores@communicate.net)

**Webmaster:**

Jon Luzio 587-4632 [jluzio@roadrunner.com](mailto:jluzio@roadrunner.com)

Phyllis Hartroft 587-3444 [hargrei@windstream.net](mailto:hargrei@windstream.net)

**Digital Imaging SIG**

Dave Clement unlisted [dvclémentusa@yahoo.com](mailto:dvclémentusa@yahoo.com)

**Linux SIG:**

Jim Amore 404-3963 [jim@helmicks.com](mailto:jim@helmicks.com)

**MS Works/Word SIG:**

Mary Frances Rauch 522-4710 [rauchhouse@alink.com](mailto:rauchhouse@alink.com)

**Networking SIG:**

Kemp O'Dell 740-348 0049 [kemp@odellhome.com](mailto:kemp@odellhome.com)

**Novice SIG:**

George Willey 788-8484 [gwilley@alink.com](mailto:gwilley@alink.com)

**Repair SIG:**

Wyn Davies 366-6314 [aeolus\\_nko@roadrunner.com](mailto:aeolus_nko@roadrunner.com)

**WebSIG:**

Kevin Clement 587-1511 [clementk777@gmail.com](mailto:clementk777@gmail.com)